

Town of Oriental
Town Board Meeting Minutes
March 7, 2017

The Town Board of Oriental Town Board Meeting on Tuesday, March 7, 2017 was called to order at 7:00pm. The Mayor Sally Belangia determined a quorum to be present, she said we have a Public Comment period. If you wish to speak, please make sure you are signed up on the sheet. We will call the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Mayor Belangia, Commissioner Overcash, Commissioner White, Mayor Pro Tempore Venturi, Commissioner Price, Commissioner Winfrey, Town Manager Miller, Chief Dwaine Moore and Members of the Public.

1. Approval of Agenda

- (a) **Mayor Belangia** asked that Number 8 be removed from the agenda as Major Scott Houston from Pamlico County Sheriff's Office was unable to attend. **Commissioner Overcash** made a **MOTION** to approve the Agenda as stated by Mayor Belangia, seconded by **Commissioner Winfrey**. Motion passed 5-0.

2. Consent Agenda:

- (a) Consider approval of Town Board Meeting Minutes from February 2, 2017
- (b) Consider approval of Town Board Special Meeting Minutes from February 16, 2017.

Commissioner Winfrey made a **MOTION** to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by **Commissioner Price**. Motion passed 5-0.

3. Public Comment Period: Mayor Belangia asks that if anyone would like to speak. Limit comments to 3 minutes and comments to full board not individual.

Grace Evans – Ms. Evans asked if we have received reports from Bay River Metropolitan Sewer District since the volunteer receives \$100 per meeting, she feels that we should receive more reports. Manager Miller stated that we normally receive reports regularly, but did not receive one this month.

Melinda Penkava – Regarding the issue of the revision of the Fulcher project. In looking over the SUP that was signed in October, regarding the conditions, she asks what the repercussions will be if the conditions are not followed once the project is in operation. Will the Town pull the SUP? Mayor Belangia stated this will be discussed on the Agenda. Also asks about Section 97 of the GMO, using the permit in a timely manner for building, is the “clock ticking?” Will be addressed.

Larry Summers – Requests to see financials. Manager Miller stated that they were added today as checks were being written and wanted to post the correct numbers.

4. Potential discussion on Alcohol in Town Hall policy.

Manager Miller states that there have been several discussions regarding the policy. There is a draft Ordinance that has been vetted by the attorney. He has looked at the waiver and other questions from the Town. It is up for the Board's discussion and Manager Miller is bringing it to public light. The draft is available if they choose to use it.

Commissioner Price made a **MOTION** to defer this until the March 24 Retreat, seconded by **Commissioner Overcash**. Motion passed 4-1 with **Commissioner Venturi** opposed.

5. Request from Sea Harbour to be administrative party to grant funded project.

Sea Harbour has forwarded a Resolution requesting the Board to allow the Town to be the administrator of a grant if funded by the state, as was requested by the Friends of Whittaker Harbour. The Town will not be obligated to pay

for this project from General Fund and will pay until funds received run out. Commissioner White asked when the project will start. Lisa Thompson of Sea Harbour stated that part of the project will start at the end of this month as soon as grant is approved. Part of the funds will go toward upgrading the spillways and spoil site and dyke walls. They do not have a start date for dredging. Dredging season is November 30 through March 31. Commissioner White asked Ms. Thompson to clarify spoil area, if the deposits they remove back into the water or if they will be carted away. Ms. Thompson stated that they own their own spoil site, 11 acres off of White Farm Road which has a CAMA permit. Only clean water will be put back into the water.

Commissioner Venturi made a **MOTION** to approve the Resolution, seconded by **Commissioner White**. Motion passed 5-0. **Commissioner Venturi** offered her congratulations and thanks.

6. Revision of Fulcher Point design.

Revision is not being considered tonight. Mr. Fulcher has not forwarded the official revision. Plan submitted to CAMA is being revised. Manager Miller wishes to clarify that project is being done according to law and Ordinance. Section 99 of the GMO, amendments to and modifications of a permit -Mr. Fulcher was granted an SUP Permit in October 2016. Manager Miller met with the Chair of the Planning Board to determine if the change is a minor or a major modification. The first revision falls in minor modification because it does not change the use. One revision is an engineering change (original plan was for a center drain, revision has the drain on the natural slope of the land to the holding tanks), which does not apply to the GMO. It does apply to the change of location as the project property is in MU1 and the adjoining property is in R2, the higher setback of the two would be used, R2 are 7' and 10' for MU1 and is now right up against the setback. Manager Miller told Mr. Fulcher this is not compliant. When revisions are complete and acceptable to CAMA, Mr. Fulcher will need to come back to the Board to decide if that change is permissible according to the GMO. No new SUP is required, but is time sensitive. The conditions on the SUP are enforceable by removal of the SUP.

7. Police Report.

Nothing new to report. Manager Miller added that the Board will be happy with the criminal statistics to be discussed at the retreat. Commissioner White asked if the speed bumps are slowing down the traffic on Midyette Street. Chief Moore stated that they are working very well.

8. Sheriff's Report.

Earlier **MOTION** to remove as Major Scott Houston was unable to attend.

9. Manager's Report

- Financials are in your packet
- We are still taking pothole addresses
- Hurricane Matthew –damages are being processed by FEMA. Schedule A and C have been filed. Project has been divided into three groups – sidewalk, force labor, overtime and equipment on the second and debris removal on the third. Approximately \$30,000 has been filed with another \$6,000 to 7,000 and this will reimburse the storm line and salaries lines.
- Landscaping on the lift station is almost complete, thanks to Missy Tenhet and Lynne Kaplan. French drain has been installed to control erosion.
- Drainage project continues. We are at 120% of budgeted funds for the green waste dumpster. It is being monitored by a camera to deter anyone from outside the village.
- We are still accepting suggestions from citizens (needs, concerns)
- Mike Hill, NCRWA, came to Town Hall and completed our Consumer Confidence Report. One thing noted two years ago was high water loss, was high double digits and should be less than 20%. We are currently less than 10%. Meter change out program continues. 14 of 16 of the 2" meters have been changed. 150 residential meters have been changed. Work on fixing capital assets, green sand in filtration system and rehabbing things to make them close to new. Operating cost recovery should change between correcting water loss and fixing capital assets.
- Manager Miller and Tammy Cox attended School of Government class, will discuss more at retreat. Jesse Burgess and Missy Tenhet attended a landscaping and pruning class in Jacksonville. This will help to train the other Tree Board members and our staff. Dr. Bob Miller spoke with Duke and showed them what they should and should not prune.

- Thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Roe for the artesian well restoration. Most of the stump was rotten and full of snakes. The stable portion was left, sealed, re-built the bench and added a planter. The sidewalk will be fixed after the root system is stable and a new sign has been ordered by the Historical Society.
- Dump bed for the F350 has been ordered. \$6,000 from storage building repair line will be moved since truck bed was irreparable.
- Cycle NC has promised to send routes this week so that we can help organize volunteers at rest stops and have a pretty full schedule of volunteers. Businesses are welcome to give us information to distribute to the cyclists.
- NOAA/DWQ/NCDEQ came to visit last week to help work on flooding issues around the duck ponds, Main Street and Hodges Street. There may be grant funding for engineering to explore long-term solutions due to shifting soils under the roads. They will be asking residents in town about where there are flooding issues.
- Tennis courts – new sleeves are sunk. When we are sure temperatures will not go below freezing, tennis court will be pressure washed, cracks filled in and repainted and install the pickle ball lines and string a new net. On the day the court is painted, a crew will come in to plumb in the new water fountain in the afternoon. Commissioner Overcash has volunteered to watch paint dry.
- Financials - \$2,500 budgeted in water impact fee, we are not charging them under advice from our attorney until litigation is at its conclusion so that will not happen. We are at 66 2/3 of the year, Police is at 65%. There was \$2,500 for drainage maintenance; we have spent \$14,000, part of which will be recovered under FEMA expenses. This includes having culverts pumped and jetted out and also ditch work. Public works is at 76%. Storm preparedness was funded for \$24,000, we have used \$21,000; this is also part of FEMA reimbursement. The \$6,600 budgeted for storage building will probably be moved over for truck bed. The 76% number is probably not accurate once storm reimbursement is complete. Green waste disposal is \$1,100 in the negative with five months to go. Signs are negative \$3,500 because of a new visibility requirement and none of the signs in our back stock are compliant. Those will be recycled and we needed to buy new signs to have two of each street in stock as it is a safety issue when we do not have a sign. Recreation expenses: Lupton Park includes money from fountain from the Bate Foundation, which was paid out of Recreation so that needs to be moved, also money for playground equipment need to see where we are before we order. Water purchase while changing out filters is overdrawn but department is at 71% and some of this will be reimbursed through FEMA. Occupancy Tax Revenue, budgeted to receive \$10,000 and we are almost there now. Tax collection, the bulk comes in January, February and March; we should receive one more large check and the rest trickles in. Finances look good overall. Reconciliations: May is reconciled to the penny to the bank, something off in the book and we are working on that with Logics.
- Commissioner Overcash asked how we are doing with taking care of the upkeep of waterfront and bathrooms. Manager Miller stated Public Works has been taking care of the maintenance portion with Beth Hudgins taking care of the cleaning portion.

10. Committee/Board Reports

- a. Parks & Recreation Advisory Board – did not have a quorum
- b. Planning Board – Draft from 2-16-17
- c. Tourism Board – 2-18-2017
- d. Tree Board – 2-28-17
- e. Water Advisory Board – Did not meet
- f. Harbor Water/Fronts Advisory Committee – DRAFT 2-9-17
- g. Bay River Metropolitan Sewer District –

11. Commissioners' Comment/Discussion Period

Commissioner Venturi – Town has considered in the past if Town Properties should allow alcohol and she voices frustration that the building has not been used for things such as Pamlico Musical Society receptions, but that it be limited to include a limited population, be ticketed with no sale of alcohol. She believes it would be a help to any group that uses the theater or the Croakerfest group and believes that the building was meant to be multifunctional. **Commissioner White** stated that it should be discussed at Retreat on March 24 and the parameters that would have to be set.

12. CLOSED Session: The Board will go into Closed Session for personnel matters according to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (6) for the Manager's annual evaluation.

Commissioner White made a **MOTION** to go into Closed Session based upon N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (6) for the Manager's evaluation. Seconded by **Commissioner Overcash**. Motion passed 5-0.

Upon returning from closed session, **Commissioner White** stated that Manager Miller got a "very good review" and "we are very lucky to have Diane and a person of her caliber working for us." It was agreed upon to give Manager Miller an increase. The Board looked at equivalent Towns based upon size, responsibility and scope found that her current pay was well below that average. **Commissioner White** made a **MOTION** that the Board move Manager Miller's salary to \$66,000 effective 4/1/17, seconded by **Commissioner Venturi**. Motion passed 5-0.

Our next Board meeting will be the yearly Retreat held on March 24 at 8am.

13. Adjourn.

Commissioner Winfrey made a **MOTION** to adjourn. Seconded by **Commissioner Price**. Motion passed 5-0.

Meeting adjourned 8pm.

Sally Belangia, Mayor

Diane H. Miller, Town Manager/Clerk

Approved

4 April, 2017 _____